

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 275933
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:JFDOBBINS:JF
APPROVED BY EUR - REBARBOUR
NEA - NVELIOTES
M/CT - JJOHNSON
S/PRS - JTRATTNOR
S/S - PTARNOFF

-----025661 172146Z /62

P 172133Z NOV 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 275933

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, AG, FR

SUBJECT: POLISARIO PRISONERS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

REF: PARIS 33221

1. WE REGRET THAT GISCARD HAS MISINTERPRETED THE THRUST OF OUR EFFORTS WITH THE ALGERIANS TO ENCOURAGE THEIR COOPERATION IN THE RELEASE OF THE FRENCH PRISONERS HELD BY POLISARIO. YOU SHOULD SEEK AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION TO IMPRESS UPON THE ELYSEE AND QUAI THAT US RESPONSE TO THE FRENCH REQUEST FOR SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE, AND SPECIFICALLY THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO BOUMEDIENE, WAS MOST EXPEDITIOUS
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AND WAS DESIGNED TO MAXIMIZE LIKLIHOOD OF A POSITIVE ALGERIAN RESPONSE. A MORE PARTISAN MESSAGE WOULD NOT, IN OUR VIEW, HAVE MOVED THE ALGERIANS TO TAKE THE SORT OF STEPS THE FRENCH DESIRE, AND COULD HAVE LED TO A HARDENING OF THEIR POSITION.

2. YOU SHOULD RECALL TO FRENCH OFFICIALS THAT WITHIN HOURS

OF RECEIVING THEIR REQUEST FOR A US APPROACH TO ALGERIA,
WE DISPATCHED PERSONAL MESSAGES TO THE ALGERIAN PRESIDENT

AND FOREIGN MINISTER, TWO DAYS LATER WE AGAIN RAISED THE
MATTER OF THE PRISONERS WITH THE ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER,
AND WE ALSO RAISED THE SAHARAN ISSUE WITH THE SOVIET
AMBASSADOR, URGING THE SOVIETS TO ENCOURAGE THE ALGERIANS
TOWARD MODERATION, A STEP WHICH DOBRYNIN INDICATED THE
SOVIETS PROBABLY WOULD TAKE.

3. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE RESPONDED TO FRENCH
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE EXPEDITIOUSLY AND VIGOROUSLY, MAKING
CLEAR TO THE ALGERIANS USG SUPPORT FOR THE EARLY RELEASE
OF THE POLISARIO PRISONERS.

4. REGARDING USG PUBLIC STANCE ON ISSUE OF POLISARIO
PRISONERS, THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED THE
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN FOR HIS USE IF ASKED:

Q. WHAT IS THE USG ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SEIZURE BY POLISARIO
OF FRENCH NATIONALS AND THEIR RETENTION AS HOSTAGES, RE-
PORTEDLY SOMEWHERE IN ALGERIA?

A. THE US DEPLORES THE USE OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS AS
HOSTAGES UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

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Q. WHAT STEPS HAVE THE US TAKEN TO MAKE ITS VIEWS KNOWN?

A. WE HAVE URGED ALL PARTIES TO THE SAHARAN DISPUTE TO
SEEK A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. WE HAVE RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE
POLISARIO PRISONERS WITH ALGERIA, URGING THE ALGERIAN
GOVERNMENT TO COOPERATE IN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THEIR RELEASE.
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APPROVED BY:S/S:TMARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 275933

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR Z. BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED
NOVEMBER 17, 1977 SENT PARIS IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 275933

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PRISONERS RELEASES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: JFDOBBINS:JF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Film Number: P850071-1706
Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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